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Concurrent Zone Opening Resolution

The Problem:

Differing opening dates for the Northern and Southern zones of the waterfowl season causes extreme hunting pressure in the zone which opens first. This is especially true on State properties. This pressure is negatively affecting the retention of waterfowl on these properties and is causing hunter conflicts as hunters crowd properties that traditionally already were crowded during the opening week of the season.

Moving of the line between the Northern and Southern zones, north or south will not solve the problem as hunters see the opportunity to take advantage of opening dates and have shown they are willing to move to take advantage of waterfowl that have not been hunted.

By the State creating these options, hunters are encouraged to take advantage of hunting opportunities outside of their traditional zone, thus artificially creating the crowding problem.

Whereas, different opening dates, between the southern and northern zones, encourages major hunter movement across zone lines, creates crowding on state properties, and negatively affects waterfowl use and retention,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in **Your County** on April, 10, 2006, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by introducing rule changes that set concurrent opening dates between the Southern and Northern Zones

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Signature: James Esslinger

For Office Use Only:

County _____

Passed or Failed _____

County Resolution Number: _____

County Vote: (by show of hands or written ballot where appropriate) YES 127 NO 14 109